

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number:

1 Claims 1-11 (canceled)

2 12. A method for limiting the operational life of software in a network
3 environment, the method comprising:

4 ~~providing transmitting~~ a program applet with a password
5 embedded therewithin ~~from a server computer to a client-computer computer~~, via
6 a network, the password having a limited operational life;

7 ~~receiving by the server computer~~, from said program applet ~~at the~~
8 ~~client computer~~, via said ~~network network~~, (i) a request for information stored in a
9 restricted access storage area of ~~a the~~ server computer, and (ii);

10 ~~automatically receiving by the server computer~~, from said
11 ~~program applet at the client computer~~, said embedded password ~~without manual~~
12 ~~entry of the password by a user~~, for authentication, ~~whenever said receiving~~
13 ~~occurs~~;

14 authenticating said embedded password by the server computer
15 ~~and not by the program applet~~, whenever said receiving occurs;

16 thereafter ~~providing transmitting~~ said information ~~from the server~~
17 ~~computer~~, to said program applet ~~at the client computer~~, via said ~~network~~
18 ~~network~~, while said embedded password is valid; and

19 invalidating said embedded password ~~by the server computer~~,
20 coincident with an invalidation event.

1 13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password at a predetermined
3 time.

1 14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password after lapse of a
3 predetermined time from when said request was received.

1 15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said embedded password upon the detection
3 of a loss of communication with said client.

1 16. (canceled)

1 17. (canceled)

1 18. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 ~~providing-transmitting a program applet~~ comprises generating said embedded
3 password.

1 Claims 19-26 (canceled)

2 27. (currently amended) A network-based software authentication system
3 comprising a server computer, the server computer comprising:

- 4 a password generator;
5 password validation apparatus;
6 a restricted-access storage area;
7 a program applet; and
8 invalidation apparatus;

9 wherein said server computer is operative to:

10 a) cause said password generator to generate a password, the
11 password having a limited operational life;

12 b) embed said password within said program applet, and ~~provide~~
13 transmit said program applet with said password embedded therewithin to a client
14 computer via a network;

15 c) receive from said program applet at the client computer, (i) a
16 request for information-and, and (ii), ~~whenever information requested is stored in~~
17 ~~the restricted access storage area, automatically receive said embedded password,~~
18 ~~from said program applet via said network, for authentication, without manual~~
19 ~~entry of the password by a user;~~

20 d) authenticate said embedded password using said password
21 validation apparatus ~~and not by said program applet,~~ whenever information
22 requested is stored in the restricted-access storage area;

23 e) ~~provide-transmit~~ said information to said program applet at the
24 client computer, via said ~~network~~ network, while said embedded password is
25 valid; and

26 f) invalidate said embedded password using said invalidation
27 apparatus coincident with an invalidation event.

1 28. (original) A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event
2 comprises the arrival of a predetermined time.

1 29. (previously presented) A system according to claim 27 wherein said
2 invalidation event comprises the lapsing of a predetermined time from when said
3 request was received.

1 30. (original) A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event
2 comprises the detection of a loss of communication with said client.

1 31. (canceled)

1 32. (canceled)

1 33. (canceled)